

14TH ANNIVERSARY BASH!

SCHOLARSHIP & AWARD NIGHT

LAWRENCE FIREFIGHTER'S RELIEF'S IN



**HONORING THE
HEROES IN OUR MIDST**

March 23, 2018

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

DINNER BY SALVATORES

6PM: DINNER - MUSIC BY DERRICK FEOLE

7PM: Melvern Taylor: "PAYING ATTENTION"

TONI WAKESTER: HOST/EMCEE

Al Kaprielian: GOOD EVENING!

*EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARD

***COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS**

(1) LAWRENCE HIGH SCHOOL

(2) GREATER LAWRENCE TECH. SCHOLARSHIP

(3) WHITTIER STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

(4) TEAM ZINGALES SCHOLARSHIP

(5) METHUEN POLICE SCHOLARSHIPS

(6) DAN COADY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

COMEDY BY JOHNNY JOYCE

ROAST BY DARYL SILVA

TOM DUGGAN'S REMARKS

AWARDS

ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF KEVIN COPPINGER

OFFICER TOM DUGGAN SR. PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD

LAST CALL FOR OFFICER EUGENE SCANLON

RAFFLE DRAWING

VALLEY PATRIOT 1ST AMENDMENT AWARD

VALLEY PATRIOT HERO VETERAN AWARD

DIANA DIZOGLIO & "PHIL OF THE FUTURE" DECOLOGERO!

MUSIC AND DANCING

Bell Aire Music Productions, with DJ Rick Bellanti

DONATING THEIR SERVICES

EMCEE: **Toni Wakester, Veteran, Law Enforcement**

HALL: **Lawrence Firefighters Relief**

ENTERTAINMENT: **Bell-Air Music Productions**
Rick Bellanti (978) 902-7041

SOMETHING ITALIAN - **GRACEMARIE & JOYCE TOMASELLI**

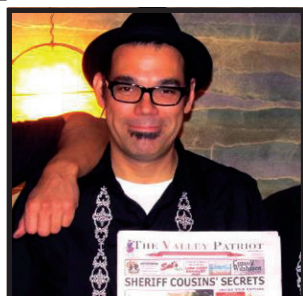
DINNERDONATED BY: **SALVATORES**
354 Merrimack St., Lawrence

HUMMUS: **SAHTAINE RESTAURANT,**
319 Merrimack St. Methuen (978) 258-2186

AWARDS: **HENRY'S JEWELRY AND AWARDS**
77 Essex Street, Lawrence (978) 686-1012

PROGRAMS: **Bob Wescott at Copilabs:**
49 Methuen Street. Lawrence (978) 794-1413

APPETISERS/Coffee **Daily Dose Cafe**



Melvyn Taylor
The Paying Attention Song



Johnny Joyce
Comedian/Veteran



Toni Wakester
Emcee/Veteran



2004 Founders of The Valley Patriot



RALPH
WILBUR



TOM
DUGGAN



DR. CHARLES
ORMSBY

2018 Bash Host Committee



Maria Fiato



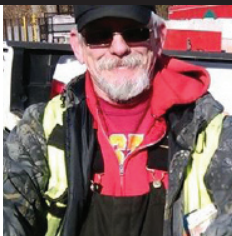
Tom Duggan



Chris Eldredge



Brenda Rozzi



Rich Russell



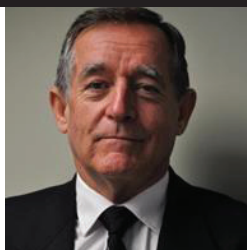
Bev D'Amico



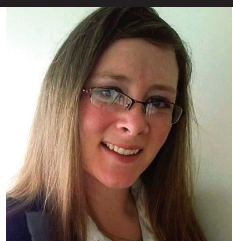
Dan Selenius



Keith Wlodyka



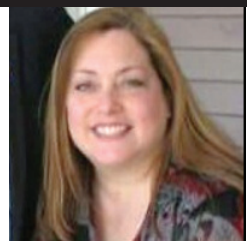
Kevin Leach



Jen Jones



Denise Donlan



Beth D'Amato



Sandra Jean



Rick Bellanti



Eric Melanson

SCHOLARSHIPS

“Thank you to Joe Zingales and Rosanna Zingales Lopez from Team ZingalesCentury 21 for donating two \$1,000 scholarships this year.

Whether it is donating toys at Christmas time to children displaced by home fires, helping homeless veterans or sponsoring our local events, you have always been there when others were in need!”

~ Tom Duggan



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TZ TEAM ZINGALES
 REALTY 

Scholarships for Lawrence High School Seniors

This Year's Recipient:

Darlene Santos
ROTC
GPA 4.0



Because of our sponsors, this is the 8th year The Valley Patriot has been able to give college scholarships to Lawrence High School seniors through the LHS Alumni Association. Because of YOUR support we've donated scholarships to 12! students from LHS. Tonight, we make that 11!

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS: 2010-Davante Jones, Franklin Pierce University| 2011-Cri-smelys Ruiz, Lincoln Tech. Lowell - Med Asst.| 2012-Ambar Hussein-Martinez, North-ern Essex| 2013-Thalia Garcia, Westfield State University: 2014 Sofia Cardenas and Ramses Jiminez Candelario| 2015 winners Christopher Pichardo & Caroline Garcia | 2016 winners Kevin Vanderhorst & Thu Dang. | 2017 Winners Christian Lantigua and Leslie Morerro

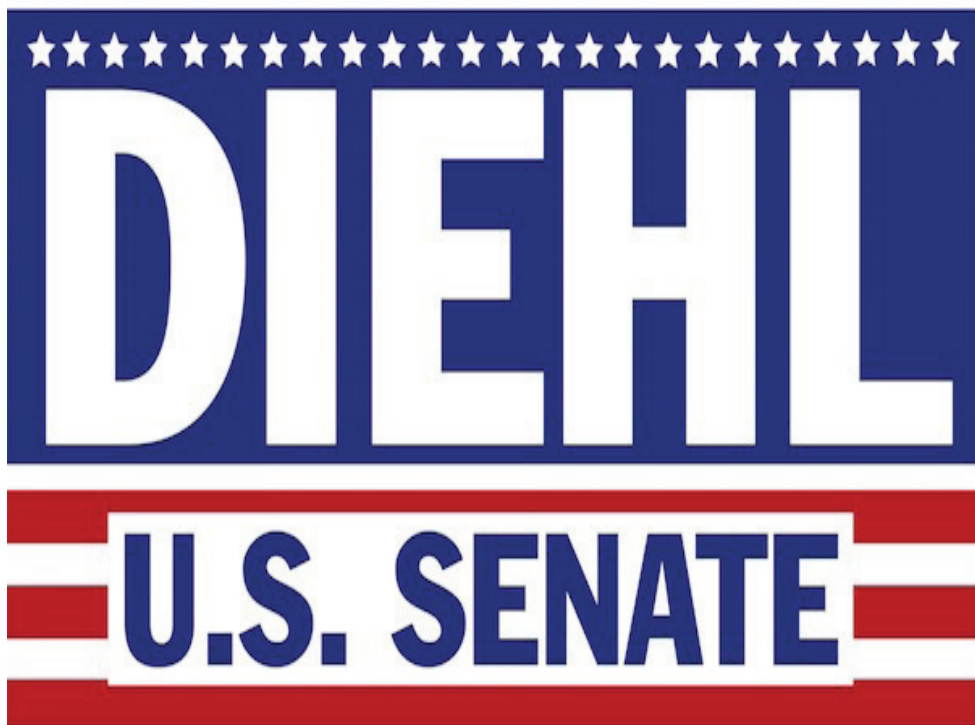


2018 GLTS Scholarship Winner**Jordana Cepeda**

Jordana Cepeda, daughter of Brendaliz Ortega and Juan Cepeda resides in Methuen and is in the Business Technology program at Greater Lawrence Technical School. As a result of her exceptional work ethic in her career area she has obtained employment through the Cooperative Education Program at Greater Lawrence Technical School. Jordana has excelled academically in advanced classes and maintains a 3.6 G.P.A.

Jordana is a John and Abigail Adams Scholar. She has volunteered at the Cor Unum and the Lawrence Senior Center. She is a member of the Stand and Deliver Mentoring Program at Raytheon. Additionally, she has volunteered as manager of the Track and Field, Swim, and Boys Soccer teams.

Jordana's future plan is to study Chemical Engineering at a 4 year university.



2018 WHITTIER Scholarship Winner

Sean Runge



Sean Runge is a senior studying Electrical Technology at Whittier Tech. He was named a Commended Student in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program and is at the top of his class. He plans on going to UMass Lowell to study Chemical Engineering and is considering pursuing a medical degree. He is active in his church and a member of the Knights of Columbus. His interests include history and politics. Sean also donated his time two years in a row selling raffle tickets at the Valley Patriot's 12th and 13th Anniversary BASH!!

Nobody has been rooting for you harder than...

Sheehan's Towing

**Best Wishes Valley Patriot on
the 14th Anniversary BASH!**

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Congratulations to

The Valley Patriot!



It's hard to believe that it was 14 years ago when The Valley Patriot first hit the streets. But, looking back at all the corruption you have exposed, and the way you have educated the public about our government, I know the Merrimack Valley is better off for your efforts! Congratulations to Tom, Chuck, Ralph and everyone at The Valley Patriot for not only exercising, but defending the 1st Amendment to the United States Constitution!

~Mike Gagliardi~

14 Years of Exposing Corruption & Taking on the Establishment!

from the VERY first edition!

**-Mike Gagliardi,
Local 175 Laborers' Union of North America**



Tonight's Awards Donated By...



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Lawrence
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Henry's Jewelry & Awards

I Remember how they Laughed 14 Years and 173 Editions Ago

I REMEMBER SO WELL ...

I remember when the very first edition of The Valley Patriot was delivered to my office in Lawrence City Hall back in 2004. I had never seen anything like it. It was a breath of fresh air for free speech in the Lawrence area! Tom, you and your team have come a long way since those days, you ought to be proud!

I also remember taking my share of criticism in the pages of this newspaper, but it was always fair and never personal.

Mostly, I remember when you first unveiled your vision for standards in journalism, how you were laughed at and mocked by the political insiders and the newspaper industry.

**CONGRATULATIONS ON
GETTING THE LAST LAUGH!**

Mike Sullivan



(Then) Lawrence Mayor Mike Sullivan in July of 2005 at the placement of our very first newspaper box on Mt. Vernon St. in Lawrence.

2018 BASH SPONSORS

Each year The Valley Patriot reaches out to our network of friends, advertisers, and supporters to raise money for our annual BASH! Please thank them and patronize their businesses. Without them there would be no awards, no scholarships, and NO BASH!

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Heather Mariani
Joanie Wilson
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VALLEY PATRIOT BASH!**

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THANK YOU FOR 14 YEARS OF SUPPORT!!!

**When there's a need in the community,
nobody steps to the plate faster than
THE VALLEY PATRIOT!**

**For 14 years you've been there to
help the community as well as
support the firefighters of Methuen
at the drop of a hat
... WITHOUT BEING ASKED!**

**THANK YOU Tommy and everyone
at the Valley Patriot for all you do!!**



**Methuen Firefighters Union,
Local 1691 I.A.F.F**

Happy 14th Anniversary to Tommy Duggan and The Valley Patriot TEAM!



**Your Friend,
Methuen
Fire Chief
Tim Sheehy**



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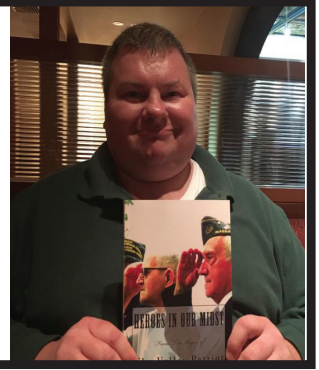
236 A Pleasant St. * Methuen, MA 01844

CONGRATULATIONS

To The Valley Patriot on
14 years of honoring our veterans
now compiled all in ONE BOOK!

HEROES IN OUR MIDST

Your Friend JOE DUNN



WILLS & TRUSTS ARE WHAT WE DO!!!

Every day when we walk out the door, there is always the possibility that it may be our "last" time. You wouldn't walk out the door without your wallet; if you fail to plan for your Family's future, that's exactly what you may be doing.



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Long before I ever ran for office I was a loyal reader of The Valley Patriot. As the Lawrence City Council President, and now a State Representative, I find it vital to keeping up with what's going on in my district. Tommy, Ralph and Chuck, Congratulations on hitting yet another milestone, your 14TH ANNIVERSARY! Here's hoping for many more!



HAPPY 14TH ANNIVERSARY!

FRANK MORAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE



14 years ago there was only 1 regional newspaper in The Valley....
and then something wonderful happened....

The Birth of The Valley Patriot!



THANK YOU VALLEY PATRIOT
FOR BRINGING REAL NEWS TO
THE MERRIMACK VALLEY!

DJ DEEB
Methuen School Committee

28

Year Remembrance...

You will never be forgotten

**Lawrence Police Officer
Tom Duggan, Sr.**



**Killed in the line of duty
March 16, 1990**



It's not how they died that makes them heroes, but how they lived

THANK YOU

to our Keynote Speaker
Essex County Sheriff

Kevin Coppinger



Presenting the...

***OFFICER TOM DUGGAN SR. PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD**

On March 16, 1990, Lawrence Police Officer Tom Duggan Sr. lost his life in the line of duty. He was a man who loved being a police officer and lived his life responding to cries for help in the community. While he worked on many major cases and high profile crimes, he always said that it was the day to day work he did on and off duty to help people in small ways that really made his job worth doing. This year we honor his service and sacrifice with "The Valley Patriot, Officer Tom Duggan Sr., Law Enforcement Award." The award is given to members of public safety (police or fire) and/or one civilian who honors the service and personal sacrifice police officers and firefighters make every day. Officer Duggan believed that those little extra things we do in life to help others ... make the biggest differences in people's lives at the end of the day and makes the world around us a better place.

PAST WINNERS: (2013): Wheelabrator's Scott Emerson & Methuen Police Officer Dan O'Connell.

(2014) Amesbury Police Officer Jason Kookan & Lawrence Firefighter Manny Gonzalez

(2015) Ret. Woburn Police Officer Bob DiNapoli & Lawrence Deputy Fire Chief Brian Murphy

(2016) Lawrence Police Officer Mike Laliberte & N. Andover Police Sgt. Dan Lanen

(2017) Methuen Police Chief Tim Sheehy & Haverhill Police Officer Guy Cooper

2018 NOMINEES

Lawrence Police Lt. James Raso

Lawrence Police Sgt. Mike Simard

North Andover Police Chief Charles Gray

LAST CALL FOR LAWRENCE POLICE OFFICER EUGENE SCANLON

In 1972, Lawrence Police Officer and hero veteran of WWII and Korea, Eugene Scanlon died as the result of injuries he sustained after being savagely beaten by four men in the parking lot of Central Catholic during a high school dance. Officer Scanlon didn't die right away (he died ten days later) and his name has never been honored as a line of duty death. His family never received line of duty death benefits. This year the legislature and governor corrected that mistake and granted Officer Scanlon Line of Duty Status!



**TONIGHT WE HONOR OFFICER SCANLON
WITH THE LAST CALL HE RIGHTLY DESERVES!**

VALLEY PATRIOT AWARDS



***VALLEY PATRIOT 1ST AMENDMENT PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD**

Each year this award is given to 2 individuals who show with their actions that they value the 1st Amendment to the Constitution. Winners of this award have made a significant difference in holding public officials accountable, fought for transparency in government and gone above and beyond the call of duty to defend and protect our right of free speech, a free press, freedom of religion and/or being a whistleblower. They are or have taken ACTION, bold action, to make sure the public is more informed about what their government leaders and representatives are up to. Without individuals like this on the front lines in the war against free speech and a free press our freedoms could be lost.

PREVIOUS WINNERS: (2014) Auditor Suzanne Bump & State Senator Katy Ives

(2015) State Rep. Jim Lyons *Mike Sweeney (LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT!)

(2016) Diana DiZoglio, Bharani Padmanabhan

(2017) State Senator Bruce Tarr & Methuen Police Chief Joe Solomon

2018 NOMINEES:

Methuen Rep. Linda Campbell, Turtle Boy, Mike Demers, Jana DiNatale, Jessica Finocchiaro

Tonight's Appetisers & Coffee Donated by



Inside Pentucket Medical at the RiverWalk, 500 Merrimack Street,
Lawrence, Main entrance downstairs next to the Lab, (978) 557-8601

VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARD

Each year The Valley Patriot honors two Valley Patriot contributors for outstanding writing or taking the high road in public discourse while also taking very bold stands on some of the most important issues that shape our culture and our community. Columnists, reporters, and even letter writers are eligible for this award. Previous winners of this award have exposed corruption, called out elected officials for bad behavior, provided exceptional information to the public and/or attracted a whole new demographic of readers to the paper.

PREVIOUS WINNERS:

- (2013) Joe D'Amore & Lonnie Brennan.
- (2014) Paul Murano & Jeff Katz
- (2015) Kathy Runge & John MacDonald
- (2016) Dave Sullivan
- (2017) Duncan Burns & Cindy Annis

2018 NOMINEES:

- FOREST RAIN
- ROBIN DESMET
- FREDDIE!
- PETER LAROCQUE
- ALIANA VON RICHTHOFEN
- JOE D'AMORE

VALLEY PATRIOT AWARDS

VALLEY PATRIOT PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Tonight we honor two members of The Valley Patriot family with The Valley Patriot President's Award. Nominees and winners were chosen personally by Valley Patriot Publisher Tom Duggan. Nominees of this award were chosen for their unique and/or outstanding contribution in the operations of the paper. Previous winners have helped us get the paper to the printer in emergency situations so that we don't miss a deadline, gone out in snowstorms to shovel out our street boxes, promoted us to local businesses for advertising, or provided exceptional material to the paper that nobody else could contribute.

PREVIOUS WINNERS:

- (2013) Christine Morabito & Dan Selenius
- (2014) Dave Sullivan & Dani Langevin
- (2015) Alex Talcott & John MacDonald
- (2016) Maria Fiato & Janet Aldrich
- (2017) Keith Wlodyka & Rick Bellanti

2018 NOMINEES:

- Brenda Rozzi
- Beth D'Amato
- Denise Donlan

**Congratulations to The Valley Patriot
A REAL Newspaper that publishes REAL
news about REAL people!**

Happy 14th Anniversary!

JIM LYONS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE





* **VALLEY PATRIOT HERO VETERAN AWARD**

Because honoring Veterans is so much a part of what we do at The Valley Patriot, tonight we honor two people who themselves honor our hero service men and women here at home. Honoring our veterans and recognizing their incredible sacrifices is one of the most important things we do at The Valley Patriot. Tonight we honor two veterans who not only served their country overseas but continued to serve their country when they came home. Whether it is public service, volunteering in the community or helping other veterans here at home, tonight's recipients are men who embody what service and sacrifice are all about.

PREVIOUS WINNERS: (2013) David Swarbrick, John Lenotte, & Helen Mooradkian

(2014) Francisco Urena & Tom Fallon. (2015) Bruce Arnold Salvucci, John MacDonald & Eric Nelson

(2016) J.T. Torres - Donald Jarvis - John Ratka

(2017) Rady Carter and Gerard McGuire

2018 NOMINEES: Dan Cotnoir & Steve Paine

VALLEY PATRIOT GOOD WILL AMBASSADOR AWARD

Once called the Honorable Mention Award, The Goodwill Ambassador Award was given to TWO people who do not necessarily work for The Valley Patriot but act as our goodwill ambassadors in the community, whether through the press, or pitching in to volunteer for one of The Valley Patriot's many projects in some outstanding way. This Award was retired last year and rolled into the PRESIDENT'S AWARD.

PREVIOUS WINNERS:

(2013) Mike Grammont & Tracey Zysk

(2014) Rich Russel & Shawn Hansen

(2015) John Bergeron & Gracemarie & Joyce Tomaselli

(2016) Jack Roy & Mike & Candy Colizzi

**NO NOMINESS
THIS YEAR**



**Congratulations
and Thank You to
The Valley Patriot
14 Years of
compelling,
exclusive news!**

Marc Laplante

Lawrence City Council District F

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Marc Laplante, 29 Durso Ave.
marclaplane@rocketmail.com, (978) 376-6702

I'm not a politician; I'm a mom who wants every child to reach their highest potential. I'm asking for one of your six votes for school committee, so that I can continue fighting for the best possible education for Methuen children."



JANA DiNatale

Methuen School Committee

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT JANA DINATALE

DONATING TABLES OR TICKETS TO OUR VETERANS ATTENDING THE BASH!



- * Batter UP
 - * Cecelia Calabrese
 - * Martineaus Towing
 - * Dan Cotnoir
- Racicott Funeral Home
- * Tom Swarbrick
 - * Mike Santiago

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Derrick Feole

**STEVE BLACKWOOD
HOLLYWOOD ACTOR**



**Al Kaprielian
METEOROLOGIST**

**MA. SECRETARY OF VETERANS'
SERVICES FRANCISCO URENA**



Born in the Dominican Republic Francisco Urena grew up in Lawrence, attending the Lawlor, Tarbox & Arlington Schools before his family moved to Florida. In June of 1998 Urena joined the Marines, training at Paris Island, SC, & then attending 2 ½ months of training as a tank commander where he learned how to operate the M1A1 tank, graduating as a tank crewman. Urena served as a security officer at the U.S. Embassy after completing a rigorous course at Quantico, VA. "My first post after completing training was in Damascus, Syria where I spent a year and a half." There, Urena learned how to speak Arabic fluently. He also learned how to speak fluent Russian when he was assigned to his second post at the U.S. Embassy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, a country which was formerly part of the Soviet Republic. After returning home for a brief period in 2004, Urena found himself on his way to Iraq as a tank commander in the Spring of 2005 in el Anbar province of Iraq on the eastern border of Syria. During his time in Iraq, Urena was part of three major operations; Operation Matador, Operation Spear and Operation Quick Strike. During operation Matador Urena was issued a navy achievement medal for heroic actions and quick decisiveness during combat operations where he and his company were ambushed by terrorists. Urena was credited for saving numerous lives and evacuated civilians from the area safely while under heavy fire. During "Operation Spear" Urena showed his heroism once again when he was hit with shrapnel in the face. Urena was honorably discharged on June 15, 2006, but his service to his country did not end there. When he came back to the states he served as the City of Lawrence's Veteran's Services Director and is now the Secretary of Veteran's Services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

14 YEARS OF CONGRATULATIONS TO THE VALLEY PATRIOT!



**Tony Silva & Your Friends at LIGHTSHIP LIQUORS
118 South Union St. Lawrence, MA 01843**

WHAT WE DO WITH YOUR ADVERTISING DOLLARS

The Valley Patriot is more than just a newspaper... it's a MOVEMENT!

Throughout the year, our fearless leader Tom Duggan uses the power of media to bring light to great local charities and organizations that he personally researches to make sure the money donated goes where it's supposed to go. Your support of the paper with advertising makes the BASH possible and the BASH makes things like THIS possible!!

The Grand Menorah Lighting North Andover

Six years ago when our publisher found out that the annual lighting of the Grand Menorah may not take place in North Andover for lack of sponsors, he contacted Chabad Lubavitch Jewish Center of Merrimack Valley and offered to help keep the local tradition going by being the only sponsor! For the six years the Valley Patriot has sponsored the Grand Menorah Lighting on North Andover Common to keep the candles burning. Thanks to YOU, our advertisers and our BASH sponsors the tradition continues! THANK YOU ALL!



EDUCATING VOTERS WITH REAL POLITICAL DEBATES



This past year the Valley Patriot held and moderated six political debates including this one including this one for Essex County Sheriff at North Andover High School

SUPPORTING OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS!

For the third year in a row, while other media outlets were trying to get cops killed with their fake news about how they are all evil racists who gun down black men for fun, Tom and the Valley Patriot family were holding rallies in the community to support our police!



REWRITING THE STATES PUBLIC RECORDS LAW

And then there was this little matter of Tom Duggan re-writing the state's public records law so that public officials who conceal public records will be punished. Thank you to Sen Katy Ives, Rep. DiZoglio, for sponsoring the bill and Governor Charlie Baker for SIGNING IT!

Happy 14th Anniversary!

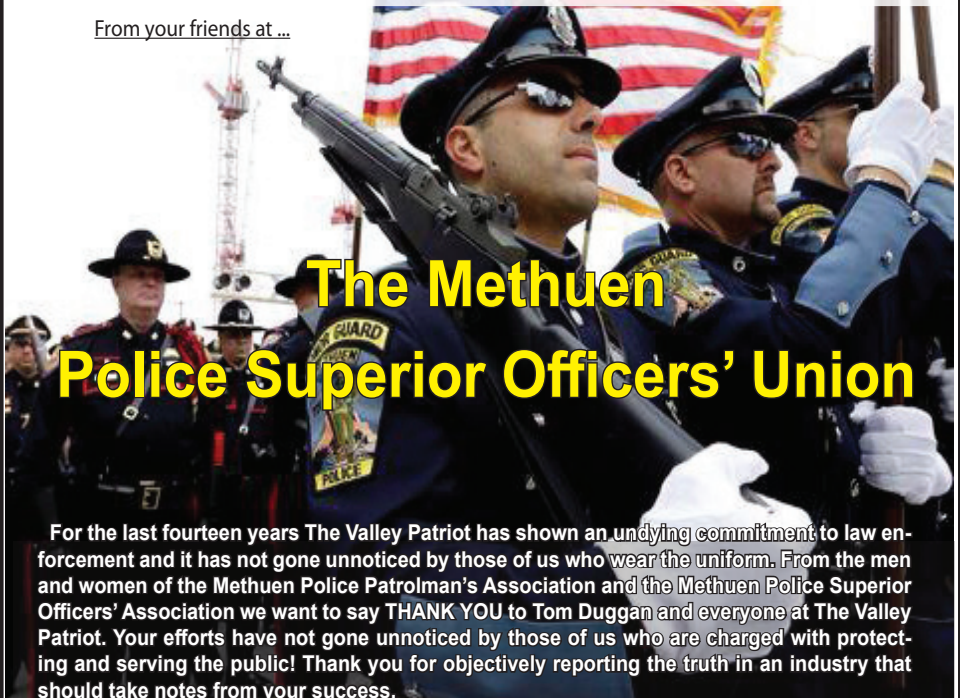
**LENNY
MIRRA**

**STATE
REPRESENTATIVE**



Happy 14Th Anniversary

From your friends at ...



For the last fourteen years The Valley Patriot has shown an undying commitment to law enforcement and it has not gone unnoticed by those of us who wear the uniform. From the men and women of the Methuen Police Patrolman's Association and the Methuen Police Superior Officers' Association we want to say THANK YOU to Tom Duggan and everyone at The Valley Patriot. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed by those of us who are charged with protecting and serving the public! Thank you for objectively reporting the truth in an industry that should take notes from your success.



THANK YOU TO AL Veilleux who created a \$500 scholarship for a North Andover Student this year in the name of DAN COADY from Coady's Towing who was tragically killed a week ago.
Our Friend Joey Viel has MATCHED that with ANOTHER \$500 donation!!

Our Condolences to the Coady Family on the tragic Loss of Danny Coady from Coady's Towing in Lawrence.
Words
Cannot Express....

Happy 14th Anniversary!



M. Paul Iannuccillo
Northern Essex Register of Deeds



COFFEE | COMFORT | COMMUNITY
Our cafe offers wi-fi, music, and plenty of room for relaxing, business meetings, study groups, or a long chat with an old friend.

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northernprocess@gmail.com



THANK YOU Valley Patriot for helping our Veterans! From your friend Hasmukh Vora and everyone at Rt. 110 Convenience Store on East St. in Methuen!

TONIGHT'S LIVE COVERAGE
SPONSORED BY...

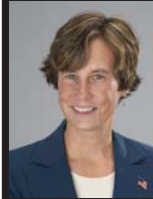


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Valley Patriot: Thank You for
14 GREAT YEARS!
Linda Dean Campbell



Sate Representative, 15th Essex
(Methuen & Haverhill)

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www.statereplindacampbell.com

Representative.linda.campbell@gmail.com

* Ways and Means; Public Safety (Vice Chair)
* Economic Development

CONGRATULATIONS



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For your support of our veterans!



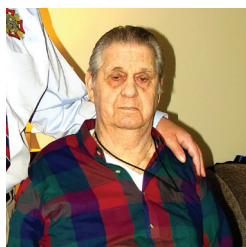
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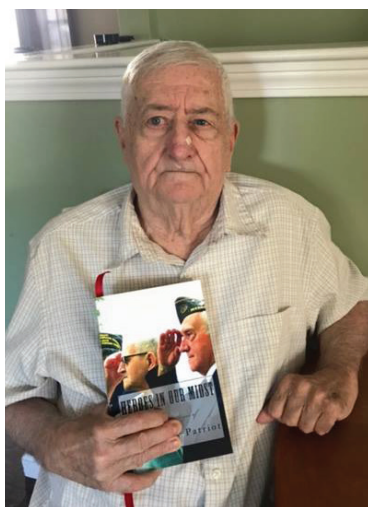
In Memory of

**Valley Patriot Family Members No Longer with Us;
Ronnie Ford, Michael Tarshi, Jim Cassidy, Walter Pomerleau,
the incredible Bruce Arnold Salvucci
(The 2015 Valley Patriot, Hero Veteran Award Recipient)
Navy Seabee Ray Wilson , Timmy Pelligrino, Rich Lussier,
and Hero Veteran Bob McCann**

**WITH US IN THE BEGINNING
WITH US NOW IN SPIRIT**

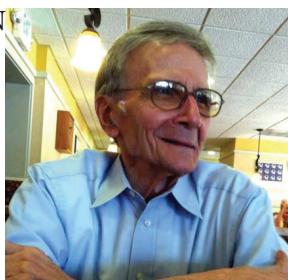


Rich Lussier



Bob McCann

RAY WILSON



Bruce Arnold



Ronnie Ford



Atty. Michael Tarshi



Commander Jim Cassidy



Walter Pomerleau



THANK YOU LISA WILLIAMS AND
EVEVERYONE AFC FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT
THROUGH THE YEARS!!



A special THANK YOU to Vietnam
Veteran RICH RUSSELL for his count-
less hours getting photos and news
spotting for the Valley Patriot



Last month our friend
Al Kaprielian lost his dad,
Sorap Kaprielian,
an 82 year old Korean War
Veteran.
Our hearts are with you AL!



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ALL YOUR SUPPORT
THROUGHOUT
THE YEARS!!

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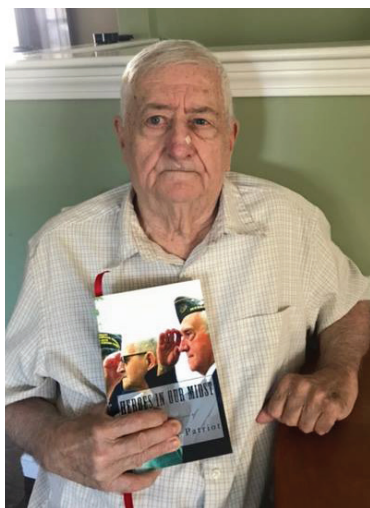
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HEROES IN OUR MIDST NO MORE

This year The Valley Patriot lost two of our Heroes In our Midst



IN MEMORY OF BOB MCCANN

IN MEMORY OF RAY WILSON

VALLEY PATRIOTS OF THE MONTH

U.S. Navy Seabee, Ray Wilson from Lawrence

Normally this space is reserved for paying tribute to living veterans who have gone off and served our country and then come back to help other veterans.

Last month, however, when the Valley Patriot learned a member of the Valley Patriot family, Ray Wilson had passed away, we also learned for the first time that he was a veteran who served in the United

States Navy, as a Navy Seabee. He was assigned to build the compound at Guantánamo Bay in Cuba. He enlisted on March 27, 1956, and was assigned to a Mobile Construction Battalion.

Wilson's wife Joan Anderson Wilson says that because of the events going on in Cuba at the time "they did have arms, but he didn't talk about it to me. All he said

was that they had to be ready for anything they needed.

Growing up we knew Ray as "Uncle Ray" and throughout the nearly 14 years of publishing the Valley Patriot, Ray was always supportive of our efforts in the community. He was also a staple at our annual charity BASH.

Raymond G. Wilson, 81, of Lawrence, passed away peacefully on October 20, 2017, at his home. Born in Lawrence, the son of Roy A. Wilson and Grace W. Wilson on September 25, 1936, Ray graduated from Lawrence High School in 1954 and served his country from 1956 through 1960 as a proud United States Naval Seabee. He spent his four-year tour of duty stationed in Cuba developing military sites.

His first job after leaving the service was for Parus Corporation working on the double 495 bridge over the Merrimack River. Throughout his life, he also worked for several contractors in the local area including N. Pandelakis & Sons, George Cairns & Sons, and ended his career with Modern Continental in Boston with the Big Dig and the Route 3 expansion. He retired in 2002 from Teamster Local 379. He loved his family and enjoyed traveling and vacationing, but his favorite time was going to Rockport, Maine, every year and visiting family in Florida several times a year. Ray enjoyed coffee, donuts and old stories every few weeks with sister-in-law, Sandi Kammeiser, and our late brother-in-law, George "Slim" Kammeiser -- that was a must.



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